

Application Serial No.: 09/527,028
Atty. Docket No. 22321-00001-US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended). A single reagent for the simultaneous determination of total leucocytes, and basophile polymorphonuclear leucocytes, and for the measurement of hemoglobin in a sample of blood, said reagent comprising:

a buffer suitable to adjust and maintain the pH to a value lower than 3;

at least one cationic detergent;

a nitrogenous compound, wherein said nitrogenous compound is a thiourea; and further comprising the absence of cyanic compounds.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 12, wherein said buffer adjusts the pH to a value of 2.4.

15. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 12, wherein said buffer is a multi-component mixture selected from the group of mixtures consisting of:

potassium chloride plus hydrochloric acid,

tartaric acid plus sodium hydroxide,

citric acid plus sodium hydroxide,

potassium hydrogen phthalate plus hydrochloric acid,

citric acid plus disodium hydrogen phosphate, and

boric acid plus citric acid plus potassium dihydrogen phosphate.

16. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 12, wherein said detergent is selected from the group consisting of primary amines, acetates of fatty amines, hydrochlorides of fatty amines, quaternary ammonium salts, trimethylethylammonium bromide, and amides of cyclized diethylenetriamine.

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17. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 12, wherein said detergent comprises amides of substituted diamines wherein said substituted diamines are cationized by a compound selected from the group consisting of ethyl sulfate, diethanolaminopropylamine, and diethylaminopropylamide.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 18, wherein said thiourea is 1,3-dimethyl-2-thiourea.

20. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 12 further comprising at least one inorganic salt.

21. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 20, wherein said at least one inorganic salt is an alkali metal salt.

22. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 20, wherein said at least one inorganic salt is a chloride or sulfate of sodium or potassium.

23. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 12, wherein said detergent is present at a concentration of 0.2 - 20 g/l and the nitrogenous compound is present at a concentration of 0.1-10 g/l.

24. (Previously presented) The single reagent of claim 12 comprising:

5 - 10 g/l potassium chloride;

0.5 - 3 g/l 1,3-dimethyl-2-thiourea;

0.5 - 5 g/l dodecyltrimethylammonium chloride; and

1.0 - 10 g/l potassium hydrogen phosphate plus hydrochloric acid.

25. (Cancelled)